

Established 1725 London Britain Township Newsletter

Chester County, Pennsylvania

Winter 2014

News from West Grove Fire Company

The WGFC had a busy year in 2013 answering 577 fire calls and 2095 ambulance calls last year. The WGFC, which has operated a third fire station at Nichol Park since 2012, answered 111 ambulance calls and 40 fire calls in the township in 2013. Fire calls include auto accidents, automatic fire alarms, rescues and actual fire calls.



Finding Your House in an Emergency

The WGFC reminds residents of the importance of making their homes visible to emergency responders, especially at night. Displaying house numbers with reflective numbers visible in both directions at the ends of driveways speeds emergency response, especially at night and in poor weather. Similarly visible house numbers by the front door help avoid confusion when homes share driveways, and please keep house numbers clear of snow.

Fireplace Ash Disposal Safety Tips

Each year, the WGFC responds to house fires due to the improper disposal of hot ashes from home fireplaces. The US Fire Administration makes the following recommendations:

- Allow ashes to cool before disposing of them.
- Place ashes in a tightly covered metal container and keep the ash container at least 10 feet away from your home and any other nearby buildings.
- Never empty the ash directly into a trash can.
- Douse and saturate ashes with water.

The USFA has more tips on fireplace safety at: http://www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/home_fire_prev/heating/fireplace.shtm.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) offers a short video on fireplace ashes disposal at: <http://wildfire.blog.nfpa.org/2011/12/12-days-of-firewise-dispose-of-fireplace-ashes-properly.html>

When Mason and Dixon were Here

Decades after London Britain Township was established in 1725, the boundary dispute between the Calverts of Maryland and the Penns of Pennsylvania was still playing out in this area. Settlers near the border weren't exactly sure if they were residents of Pennsylvania, the Lower Three Counties (now Delaware) or Maryland. Most had loyalties to one side or the other.

To settle the dispute, the Calverts and Penns agreed to a survey with the border between the two states being the latitude line 15 miles south of the then southernmost point in Philadelphia (now 30 South Street, near 2nd Street). Lands within a previously surveyed 12-mile arc from New Castle would remain as Pennsylvania territory. The survey would take four years to complete and even longer to be accepted by all parties.

Two hundred and fifty years ago the process began in Philadelphia when Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon determined Philadelphia's southern most point to be at the 39°56' parallel in November of 1763.

Mason and Dixon came to America with all the latest high-tech surveying equipment of the time. To accomplish their survey, the team cut a nine-foot swath, called a visto, across the landscape. When they came upon swamps, rivers, and other large bodies of water they used triangulations to continue an accurate survey line.

In the spring of 1764, Mason and Dixon crossed the Delaware River and from Stargazer's Road (near Embreeville), set the Stargazer Stone, a reference stone

on the same latitude as the southern-most tip of Philadelphia. They surveyed 15 miles south and determined the border between Pennsylvania and Maryland to be at the 39°43' parallel. From there, the team headed south to Fenwick Island and established the north-south tangent line of the Maryland and Delaware border.

In the April of 1765, Mason and Dixon returned to the area and found the intersection of the 39°43' parallel and the 12 mile radius; the Arc Corner Monument stands at this location just off Hopkins Bridge Road, in Delaware. They continued the survey westward along the 39°43' parallel.

On June 18, 1765, a marker was set at the point where the north-south tangent line met the 39°43' parallel line, determining the point where the Lower Counties, Pennsylvania, and Maryland met. The original marker at this site was lost or stolen. In 1849 a new stone was placed at the site. This stone remains, and is referred to today as the Tri-State Marker.

One problem was a wedge of land outside of the 12 mile arc and south of the 39°43' parallel. Commonly called the Wedge, it was originally assigned to Pennsylvania (and part of LBT), but eventually ceded and was accepted by Delaware in 1921.



The Tri-State Marker designates the point where Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Delaware's boundaries intersect.

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SECCRA's Landfill Turns Trash to Electricity

The waste gas, mostly methane, from trash decomposing in Southeastern Chester County Refuse Authority's (SECCRA) landfill is now being converted to electricity. SECCRA is the landfill where trash picked up in London Britain Township is taken.

SECCRA opened its first electricity generation facility in 2007. This generated 1.8 megawatts of electricity on a continuous basis using the landfill's gases. Prior to converting the methane to electricity, SECCRA did what most landfills do, burned the methane into the atmosphere through flare towers.

In 2010, another generator began producing an additional 1.6 megawatts of electricity.

The electricity output of the facility is equivalent to the powering of 2,007 homes.

Besides the generators that run on methane, the system includes a gas-collection system in the landfill, a power line connection to the grid, and an electronic monitoring system.

According to SECCRA's website, the electricity generation plant reduces the amount of methane that is introduced into the environment by 6,773 tons and 17,848 tons of carbon dioxide annually. "This is equivalent to

- Annual greenhouse gas emissions from 26,598 passenger vehicles
- Carbon sequestered annually by 33,006 acres of pine or fir forests
- CO2 emissions from burning 758 railcars' worth of coal
- CO2 emissions from 16,484,191 gallons of gasoline consumed."

SECCRA sells the power it generates to the PJM power grid.

The system cost \$3.7 million to build. SECCRA is expected to recoup this investment within five years. Profits from the electricity generation will then be used to make improvements at the landfill or other investments that will benefit SECCRA's constituents.

When Mason and Dixon ... (continued from Page 1)

Mason and Dixon did not survey the actual 12 mile arc. This was done by an earlier survey team, which placed blazes on trees. Stone markers were later placed along the approximate border. These stones still remain on some properties in the Township, but are not Mason-Dixon Line stones.

One hundred stone markers carved with "M" on one side and "P" on the other side arrived from England, as were crownstone markers with Calvert and Penn coats of arms on opposite sides. In 1766, once final survey points were made, the stone markers were placed at 1 mile intervals. The crownstones were placed every five miles. One of the Mason-Dixon survey stones is in London Britain Township. It is on Elbow Lane, about eight-tenths of a mile from Route 896.



Mile Marker #1 of the Mason Dixon survey is located on Elbow Lane, about eight-tenths of a mile from Route 896.

A brief history of the Mason-Dixon Line by John Mackenzie, University of Delaware, details the entire Mason Dixon Survey and can be found online at udel.edu/johnmack/mason_dixon.

Sources for this story included John Mackenzie's text, information from Kathleen Sullivan of White Clay State Park, Delaware, and Wikipedia.

Coming Soon: The Tri-State Trail

Until recently the site of the Tri-State Marker surveyed by Mason and Dixon sat on private land with public access extremely limited. In 2011 the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR) purchased the Pennsylvania parcel that connected the marker to other land in the White Clay Creek Preserve.

Although the land is under state own-

ership, a means to visit the site was lacking good, sustainable trails. Working with PA DCNR, members of the Friends of White Clay Creek Preserve and the Wilmington Trail Club developed a plan for a four mile, looping trail from the Preserve's parking lot on Arc Corner Road to the Tri-State Marker.

Work has begun on Phase One: the Northern Trail. It is a single-lane pedestrian, 1.7 mile trail with 9 bridges/boardwalks going from the Arc Corner Parking lot to the Tri-State Marker.

Work on Phase Two: the Southern Trail will commence once the Northern Trail is complete and upon approval of the plan from Delaware State Parks. The Southern Trail is another two-mile trail with six additional water crossings. It also will connect into trails in the White Clay Creek State Park in Delaware.

The project is being led by Wendel Cassel of Newark, Delaware and Fred Nelson of LBT. Volunteer work days will start again in the spring. Details will be posted on the Friends of White Clay Creek Preserve's website: FriendsOfWCCPa.org.

The goal is to have the Northern Trail completed in time to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Mason-Dixon survey's setting of a marker on June 18, 1765.

Local youth or service organizations are encouraged to contact Friends of White Clay Creek Preserve through their website if they are interested in building a bridge or boardwalk as a community service project.

Friends of White Clay Creek Preserve is applying for various grants to help fund the project. Individual donations are also being accepted to help make this project become a reality. Donations can be sent to Friends of White Clay Creek Preserve, P. O. Box 172, Landenberg, PA 19350.



LBT residents April Schmitt and Barbara Wright on the first bridge built for the new Tri-State Marker Trail.

News and Notes

On Lot Septic Tank Pumping

Residents with on lot sewage disposal, which are most township properties, are required to pump at least every three years. If your property was last pumped in 2010 it was due for pumping in 2013. If your property was last pumped in 2011 it is due for pumping in 2014.

To verify your compliance, send the pumping receipt promptly to the Township. If your pumper has informed you that he or she is sending the receipt, please follow up with the Township Office (610-255-0388) to ensure the paperwork was received.

Beware of

Door-to-Door Scams

Transient Merchants and Solicitors need License in LBT

Some residents of London Britain Township have seen an influx of unscrupulous door-to-door solicitations and scams in the past year.

Before talking to and/or purchasing anything from a transient merchant or solicitor, ask to see their London Britain Township Solicitation License. Make sure it is current, not expired, and is signed by the LBT Township Secretary.

By LBT ordinance (adopted in 2010) "it is unlawful for any person, not exempted by Section 6 of the Ordinance, who is not the holder of a valid and unexpired license issued to engage in selling, purchasing or soliciting the sale or purchase of food, printed matter, services, goods, wares or merchandise of any description, or in soliciting contributions, gifts or pledges of money or any other thing of value, by visitation to private homes or residences, business establishments, or on public streets or highways within the legal boundaries of the Township of London Britain."

Charitable, religious and school solicitations are exempted in the Solicitation Ordinance. The full Solicitation Ordinance is available for review at the Township Office during normal business hours.

This ordinance was adopted to protect the residents of LBT. Please contact the Township if unwanted solicitations are occurring in your neighborhood.

Help with Stray Animals

If you see a wild animal injured, acting inappropriately, or in danger contact the Game Commission: 877-877-9470 or 610-926-3136.

If you see stray dogs or cats or a domesticated animals injured, in danger, or acting inappropriately please contact the Chester County SPCA: 610-692-6113.

Dog Licenses

All dogs, three months of age and older, must be licensed in the State of Pennsylvania. Owners can be fined for not licensing their dogs.

The County Treasurer's office is responsible for collecting the applications and fees and issuing the dog license. Yearly regular fees are \$6.45 for spayed and neutered dogs and \$8.45 if not. Persons with disabilities and senior citizens receive a \$2 discount. Licenses are based on a calendar year and must be renewed annually.

There is an option for a lifetime license. The cost is \$51.45 (\$31.45 for seniors) and involves tattooing or microchipping your dog. Call the County Treasurer's Office for details.

Dog licenses can now be obtained online at www.padoglicense.com. In addition they can be purchased at the Chester County Treasurer's Office (by mail or in person) and at West Grove and Oxford Borough offices.

LBT/AG Library Satellite Hours

The Avon Grove Library's Satellite Library, housed at LBT's Meeting Hall is now open only on Wednesdays from 6 to 8 p.m.

LBT Real Estate Tax

LBT's Real Estate Tax bills will be mailed by February 1. Payments received by April 7 will receive the discount. Payments made after June 6 will receive a penalty. Questions? Call Janie Schnelle, LBT's Tax Collector at 610-274-8347.

Snow Fence

Blowing snow creates drifts and blocks roads in many parts of the Township, creating a hazard and extra work for the Road Crew. For a second year, a snow fence was installed along Flint Hill Road from the school house to Route 896. If we have a huge quantity of snow this year, and the snow fencing proves successful in limiting snow drifting onto the roadways, the Township will look to expand this effort to other parts of the Township in future years.

Township Directory

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Aileen Parrish - Chairman
Glenn Frederick - Vice Chairman
David Owens - Member

STAFF

Carolyn Matalon -
Secretary and Parks Manager
Dave Gargula - Zoning Officer
Joe Ferguson - Roadmaster and
Director of Public Works

Dan Tracey, Steve Dudkewitz and Gary Neil
Road Crew

Pat Walsh, Walsh Engineering -
Township Engineer

Janie Schnelle - Tax Collector

Nette Stejskal - Treasurer and
Project Coordinator

CONTACT INFO

Office/Meeting Hall/Garage:

81 Good Hope Road
Landenberg PA 19350

Mailing address:

P.O. Box 215, Kemblesville PA 19347

Phone: 610-255-0388

Fax: 610-255-3542

WEBSITE

www.londonbritaintownship-pa.gov

EMAIL

carolyn.londonbritaintwp@comcast.net

Township Meetings

All meetings are held at the LBT Meeting Hall on Good Hope Road, 7 p.m.

Agendas are posted on the Township website by noon on the day of the meeting

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Second and fourth Mondays of the month (except December, plus call or check website for other dates and/or canceled meetings)

PLANNING COMMISSION

Each Tuesday following a Board of Supervisors' meeting

This newsletter is published by the London Britain Township Board of Supervisors, and produced by Secretary Carolyn Matalon and Lucas Communications and Publications.

London Britain Township
P. O. Box 215
Kemblesville, PA 19347

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Only Rain in Storm Drains

The goal of storm water management is to have only rain water going through storm drains and into our local waterways. Chemicals, pesticides, oils, soil, leaves, and grass clippings that enter a storm drain negatively affect the quality of the water in our streams and creeks, greatly impacting the environment.

Each of us plays a key role in seeing that only rain goes into storm drains. Below are a few tips and reminders.

1. Keep stormwater outlets and swales free from grass clippings, leaves and yard waste. The nitrogen this adds to the waterways is the top contaminant of local water sources.
2. Do not pour anything, from coffee and soda to oil, chemicals and pesticides down a storm drain. Whatever goes in flows directly into a waterway. Dispose of paints, pesticides and chemicals properly through household hazardous waste disposal days.
3. Do not drain your pool or hot tub into the street, instead drain into your yard and allow it to filter through the soil.
4. Brush lawn chemicals off all hard surfaces including sidewalks and driveways.
5. Wash your car, boat, or anything else on grass instead of the driveway.
6. Arrange the flow of gutters away from the house but into landscaped or grassy areas instead of down driveways and sidewalks.

Snow Plowing!



Snowplow operators work long hours, day and night, to clear LBTs roadways as quickly and safely as possible.

Safety is Everyone's Responsibility

The Township's Road Crew monitors the temperature and road conditions during the colder winter months and prepares in advance for ice and snow.

Having roads safe for travel during snow and ice events is everyone's responsibility. The Road Crew asks for cooperation by doing the following in preparation for each storm:

- Please do not park your vehicles or other items such as trailers, basketball hoops, etc. in cul-de-sacs, or in the roads. We will not plow your road if any property is at risk of being damaged from the heavy snow or the snow plow is at risk of being damaged.
- Move all rocks back at least 3 feet from the edge of the road. Snow plow drivers cannot see rocks when covered with snow. Serious injury to drivers and major damage to snow plows (plus hours of downtime to fix the plows) occurs when rocks are struck. Use pole markers for your property along the property's edge to denote the start of the road. With snow covering the ground, sometimes the plow disturbs some grass. We apologize for this in advance.
- Snow is heavy and sometimes mailboxes are damaged as snow is pushed off the roadway. If concerned about this damage, remove your mailbox before your street is plowed.
- Give snowplows a safe driving distance.
- Do not plow or throw snow from your driveway into the street.
- It is the homeowner's responsibility to clear snow away from the mailbox for postal service access.

Remember snow plowing can be dangerous and SAFETY is our number one goal.